

UNITED STATES NAVY

# SEABEE

SUMMER 2008

## Focus on Africa

ALSO INSIDE:

**2007 Stethem,  
Combs, Shields,  
Peltier and Perry  
Awards**

**Transition:  
Warfront to  
Homefront**

**Admiral Moreell's  
Seabee Heritage**

**Seabee Betty  
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**WE BUILD ★ WE FIGHT**

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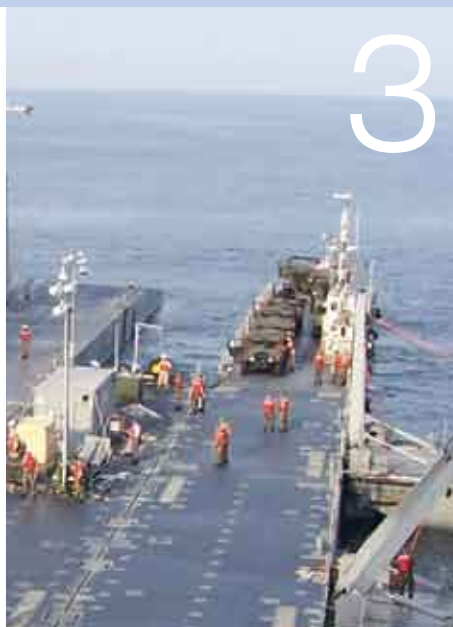
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## ON THE COVER

UT2 Jaypee Deguzman, NMCB 74, drives nails into a picnic table for Escola Primeira Oque del Rei in Sao Tome and Principe in March, while boys from the school look on. The school project was included in Africa Partnership Station (APS), part of the U.S. Navy's Global Fleet Station, providing a platform with the capacity and persistent presence to support sustained, focused training and collaboration on a regional scale to maritime partners in West and Central Africa.

Photo by LT Sylvester Adamah,  
NAVFAC Washington

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Program addresses physical, emotional and spiritual needs of deployed service members returning home



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### FINAL WORD

FORCM (SCW) Jim Fairbanks shares his thoughts on today's Seabees – changing lives and making a positive difference – as he transitions to his next duty station as CMDCM, CBC Gulfport



### *Seapower will be a unifying force for building a better tomorrow.*

– A Cooperative Strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Seapower, unified maritime strategy of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard

This issue's cover feature focuses on the emerging strategic importance of Africa – the second largest and second most populous continent, after Asia. Surrounded by five bodies of water, this continent serves as the centerpiece for Africa Partnership Station and a key component in the maritime strategy of the U.S. armed forces. As you will see, our Builder Warriors play an important role in this strategy to protect our way of life, recognizing that peace and stability on the continent impacts not only Africans, but the interests of the U.S. and international community as well.

As promised in the Spring issue, we have complete coverage on these prestigious awards – Stethem, Combs, Shields, Peltier and Perry. While each recipient – individual or battalion – is unique, they all have one quality in common. In carrying on the traditions founded by those for which the awards are named, each recipient is being honored for outstanding contributions in perpetuating the legacy of the Seabees.

The Warrior Transition Program is helping many Seabees ease back onto the homefront after having served their country far from families and friends. Toward the beginning of our publication schedule for this issue, NMCB 3 had just left Naval Base Ventura County for Iraq and Afghanistan, while the 30<sup>th</sup> NCR had recently returned to NAS Point Mugu after a 12-month deployment. Several arrival and departure photos of these 'Bees are featured with this article.

We also welcome FORCM (SCW) Mike Holdcraft to Washington, D.C., from his previous assignment as command master chief of the 30<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Regiment. We also wish "fair winds and following seas" to FORCM Jim Fairbanks who is now CMDCM, CBC Gulfport, Miss. His inspiring words are featured in this issue's *Final Word*.

Congratulations to MC2 Chad Runge and MC2 Demetrius Kennon, NMCB 1, frequent contributors to *Seabee* Magazine, for their recent 2007 Chief of Navy Information Awards. NMCBs 3 and 4 were also both awarded for their command publications.

Finally, all the writers, photographers and their commands who contribute to *Seabee* Magazine may take pride that their efforts have not gone unnoticed as well. *Seabee* won the Award of Distinction (Silver Award) in this year's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Communicator Awards competition from a field of more than 9,000 competitors. Well done, *Seabee* contributors!

Sincerely,



George L. Markfelder  
Team Leader, *Seabee* Magazine



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#### EDITORIAL

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**“WHETHER SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, SUPPORTING THE MARITIME STRATEGY THROUGH BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER NATIONS, OR PROVIDING DISASTER RELIEF TO PEOPLE IN NEED, THE POSITIVE IMPACT THE SEABEES ARE MAKING AROUND THE WORLD HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.”**

*– RADM Richard E. Cellon, Commander, First Naval Construction Division*

Since their inception in 1942, Seabees have a long and proud history of being a primary engineer force which can rapidly respond to a variety of humanitarian missions, ranging from civic action projects meant to improve the lives of allies and friends to military-to-military engineer engagements which increase understanding and build partner capacity.

Seabees are forward deployed around the world today providing engineering and construction support across the full range of military operations from general engineering support in Operation Iraqi Freedom to promoting regional stability through engineer civil action projects in Africa, Europe, South America and the Pacific Theater.

Seabee engineering capabilities support the goals of the unified maritime strategy of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard – *A Cooperative Strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Seapower*. An historical first, this strategy stresses an approach that integrates seapower with other elements of national power, as well as those of our friends and allies.

# Focus on Africa

Africa Partnership Station (APS) is an integral part of this U.S. maritime strategy. The six-month APS mission has trained West African navies to fight drug smuggling and maritime security threats in a region which supplies nearly a fifth of U.S. oil imports, rivaling the Middle East. The Seabees are a critical component to the success of APS.

*(Continued on next page)*

The Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) embarked on the HSV 2 Swift, left, and USNS 2<sup>nd</sup> LT John Bobo (T-AK 3008), assembled off the coast of Monrovia, Liberia.  
Photo by MC2 Elizabeth Merriam



(Continued from previous page)

The first-ever Africa Partnership Station (APS) is a U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa-led initiative, executed by a multinational staff and training teams from various U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard commands. Part of the Global Fleet Station concept, APS seeks to support regionally sustained, focused training and multinational/interagency collaboration. During the 2007-2008 deployment, APS platforms USS *Fort McHenry* (LSD 43), USS *Annapolis* (SSN 760) and *High Speed Vessel (HSV) 2 Swift* visited several nations in West and Central Africa, including the Gulf of Guinea, through the spring.

Throughout the deployment, Seabees served a vital role in APS sharing engineering knowledge and best practices, providing humanitarian relief, and helping build confidence and trust between the U.S. and African nations – exemplifying the mission of the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command.

With the commissioning of the Unified Combatant Commander AFRICOM, APS demonstrates commitment on the part of the United States to the continent of Africa. And the ‘Bees plan to be there every step of the way.



## Humanitarian Assistance Transfers Across INLS to Support Africa Partnership Station

By LCDR Dan Cook, ACB 2

Despite rolling seas and exhausting heat, Seabees from Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 2 completed a landmark application of forward-deployed assets, demonstrating a sea-basing capability for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps team. While participating in the Africa Partnership Station (APS) deployment with Sailors and Marines from more than nine commands, the “Can Do” spirit culminated on March 24, seven miles off the coast of Monrovia, Liberia.

All of the many moving parts came together in the seamless transfer of a Marine Corps humanitarian assistance convoy team to the *HSV 2 Swift* across the Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) Roll-On/Roll-Off Discharge Facility (RRDF).

After eight months of planning, analysis and training, the ACB 2 Bravo Company Seabees completed construction in the rolling African coastal swells in 24 hours. The Naval Support Element, comprised of Navy Beach Group 2, ACB 2, Assault Craft Unit 2 and Naval Cargo Handling Battalion 1, embarked the Maritime Prepositioned Ships (MPS) Squadron 1 vessels USNS *LCPL Roy M. Wheat* (T-AK 3016) and USNS *2<sup>nd</sup> LT John Bobo* (T-AK 3008) in Dakar, Senegal.

“This is a dangerous environment. You need to have the same game plan from the lowest level to the top,” said Boatswain’s Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class Clive Porter, RRDF rig captain, ACB 2. “It takes a lot of communication. This system is faster



and safer to put together [compared to the legacy system].”

The INLS is a redesign of a floating dock system originally used during World War II. Composed of interchangeable modules, the system pieces lock together to create ferries, causeway piers or the RRDF to transport cargo and equipment from ship to shore. These craft and systems, designed and delivered by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command’s (NAVFAC’s) Sealift Support Office, is a technologically sophisticated, extremely powerful and versatile asset.

In addition to the INLS RRDF, ACB 2 operated causeway ferries and warping tugs. These craft were used as the prime movers in RRDF construction and as sea-basing connectors.

**(Above)** As part of the Navy’s West Africa Training Cruise (WATC) 08, an APS-related initiative, the USNS 2<sup>nd</sup> LT John Bobo (T-AK 3008) moors to the INLS discharge facility off the coast of Monrovia, Liberia.

Photo by MC2 Elizabeth Merriam

**(Inset)** SN Robert Buchwald prepares to lock INLS RRDF modules using hydraulically actuated side connectors. This newly designed system has eliminated labor-intensive and dangerous practices with technologically sophisticated structural systems.

Photo by LCDR Dan Cook





**BU3 Timothy Walton, left, and BU3 Daniel Cindric, NMCB 74, lay blocks for a water box in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, earlier this year.**

*Photo by MC3 John Hulle*

**BU2 Jose Andino (center) and UT2 Juan Aviles (right), NMCB 74, enjoy a coffee ceremony prepared by the local community. Seabees from NMCB 74 replaced 14 water distribution areas during February and March in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia.**

*Photo by MC3 John Hulle*



## 'Can Do Crew' Begins School Renovation Work in Ethiopia

*By MC3 John Hulle, NMCB 74 Public Affairs*

**S**eabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 began work renovating a secondary school in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, in March.

The first part of the project included installing a tile floor, painting the structure, upgrading the electrical system and installing new data lines for internet connections in the computer lab. After the computer lab is complete, the crew plans on focusing their attention on the auditorium.

"The upgrades will have a tremendous impact on not only the students but the community as well, since the auditorium is also used for civic functions and community meetings," said Construction Electrician 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Davis, mission commander of the self-proclaimed Dire Dawa 'Can Do Crew.'

"After getting settled in we were introduced to local leaders and elders," Davis added. "We worked closely with the civil affairs team and local leaders to discuss needs and issues to enhance the quality of life here in Dire Dawa."

Before beginning work on the school, the 'Can Do Crew' repaired 14 water distribution points throughout Dire Dawa.

"There are very few houses in Dire Dawa that have running water," said Davis. "If there were no water points there is no telling how far people would have to walk to get water."

Builder 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Daniel Cindric said he didn't expect that he would be so welcomed.

"I have noticed the entire community wants to be involved in all aspects of our work," he said.

## Mobile Utilities Experts Complete Expeditionary Power Plant

*By Linda Wadley, Public Affairs Officer, NFELC*

Five Mobile Utilities Support Equipment (MUSE) technicians returned to Port Hueneme, Calif., Feb. 24, after making final adjustments to the prime power plant they installed at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, Africa, to meet the camp's increasing energy demands.

The plant, which began producing power the first week in February, is the largest expeditionary power plant MUSE has installed since the Vietnam era.

"The mission has been a successful example of the expedi-

tionary capabilities that MUSE has developed to meet current operational requirements," said LCDR Anthony Dapp, operations officer, Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center (NFELC). "Historically, the majority of MUSE missions have involved cold iron support for the haze gray Navy. The recent focus on expeditionary deployment of MUSE equipment has required the program to engineer modifications to its equipment to meet new mission requirements."

The plant, capable of powering nearly 4,000 residential



## NMCBs 74, 40 Build Community Spirit Through Ghana Medical Clinic

*Source articles from LT Gareth Montgomery, NMCB 74 Det. APS, and MC2 Michael Campbell, APS Public Affairs*

**S**eabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) 74 and 40 worked together on Africa Partnership Station's (APS's) premier Ghana project, the Ghana Medical Clinic, in Tema, earlier this year.

"It's a good feeling to be able to work on a project that's going to benefit the local population in Tema," said LT Joe Clements, NMCB 40. "The Seabee motto, 'With compassion for others, we build, we fight...', fits well with what we are doing here. We are building with compassion for others, while fighting the global war on terrorism."

The Seabees from NMCB 40 extended their normal six-month deployment to augment NMCB 74 personnel assigned to Det. APS. Together they completed a 2,000-square-foot medical facility containing two medical wards, two treatment rooms, five bathrooms, a laboratory, a dispensary, an office and a covered waiting area. The facility treats the local civilian population, as well as Ghanaian military personnel.

Additionally, Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), a private voluntary organization with an emphasis on advancing health through humanitarian assistance and education worldwide, will donate equipment for the Ghanaian doctors to use in the facility.

APS has delivered more than \$1 million in donations on behalf of Project HOPE in Ghana.

"The partnership between Project HOPE and APS to provide equipment for the clinic constructed by the Seabees and Ghanaian engineers is a great collaboration that enhances each organization's efforts on behalf of the Ghanaian people," said LCDR Chuck Bell, a civil affairs planner from Maritime Civil Affairs Squadron 2 and the APS non-governmental organization activities coordinator.

"The project means a lot to us and we, the people of Ghana, appreciate what [has been] done," said Corporal Richard Akuffo, 49<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion, Ghana. "The clinic will help a lot; it will help our children and our children's children. So, we say thank you to the Seabees for building unity between our countries so our friendship can last forever."



**Members of NMCBs 40 and 74, Ghanaian service members and volunteers from Project HOPE unload donated medical supplies at the Manhean Medical Clinic in Ghana as part of APS.**

*Photo by MC2 Michael Campbell*

homes, constitutes a 50 percent increase in the Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa power generation capacity and meets all current and near-future needs, explained Dapp. In total, six 1,200-kilowatt power plants and two 5-mega volt amp substations will be tied into the camp power grid.

**CE1 Wilbert Davis, a technician with the MUSE division, performs an operational check on a 1,200 kW-generator at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, Africa. NFELC's MUSE Department, Port Hueneme, Calif., built the \$5 million power station in 15 months with help from the Public Works Department and NMCBs 5, 40 and 133.**

*Photo by CECS Doug Heiner*





# GWOT UPDATE

## Seabees and Army Engineers Work in Partnership on New Bridge

*By LCDR David McAlister and LTJG Daniel Sommerville, 30<sup>th</sup> NCR (Fwd) Public Affairs*

Steelworkers from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 15 and engineers of 814<sup>th</sup> Multi-Role Bridge Company, also known as bridgers, constructed the second floating span of a Mabey Johnson Float Bridge in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Jan. 25. With the continued emphasis on reducing coalition force impact to the local Iraqi population, the 30<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) (Forward) coordinated the emplacement of the new bridge as a replacement to the Tactical Assault Float Bridge that has been deployed at this site for nearly a year.

"This bridge satisfies three objectives vital to Multi-National Force-West," said LT Wade Horton, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) area construction engineer. "It maintains a critical line of communication, reduces maintenance requirements from daily to monthly, and allows for tactical redeployment of extremely limited assault float bridging."

Seabee steelworkers contributed vital welding expertise necessary to prepare the floating pontoons.

"The steelworkers from NMCB 15

welded distribution beams and winch trays to the pontoons. The beams distribute the weight of the bridge and vehicular traffic across the pontoons, and the winch trays secure the anchorage system to the pontoons," said LTJG Daniel Sommerville, 30<sup>th</sup> NCR (Fwd) engineering officer.

Once the two floating spans and two landing spans were completed, ramps were constructed at each approach. The final product, completed Feb. 3, is a single-lane bridge capable of sustained operations with minimal maintenance required from coalition forces.

"This is one more opportunity for engineers in Al Anbar to make a difference for the coalition forces, for the Iraqi Security Forces and, most importantly, for the Iraqi people," said LCDR David McAlister, operations officer, 30<sup>th</sup> NCR (Fwd). "Ensuring mobility across Al Anbar will not only allow Iraqi security forces to continue their progression toward self-reliance, but ensures the local Iraqi economy is free to prosper and moves the Iraqis that much closer to a normal life."

NMCB 15

30<sup>th</sup> NCR

**Seabees from NMCB 15 and engineers of 814<sup>th</sup> Multi-Role Bridge Company construct the second floating span of a Mabey Johnson Float Bridge in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq in late January.**

Photo by LT Wade Horton







**U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Burt Fields, commander, LSA Anaconda, thanks the Seabees of NMCBs 1 and 15 Task Force Sierra Det. 1, for their efforts in construction improvements for a weapons range in Iraq in March.**

Photo by MC2 Demetrius Kennon

## Task Force Sierra Seabees Commended for Improving Weapons Range

*By MC2 Demetrius Kennon, NMCB 1 Public Affairs*

Seabees with Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs) 1 and 15, Task Force Sierra Det. 1 completed construction improvements for a weapons range on board Logistics Support Area (LSA) Anaconda in Iraq on March 10.

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Burt Fields, commander, LSA Anaconda, presented a certificate of appreciation to the Seabees and Soldiers who worked on the project.

The range is used to train and qualify service members on sniper and handgun shooting. Because of the Seabees' work, service members are now able to train on enemy engagement techniques in a newly restored shoot house.

NMCB 1

NMCB 15

## Seabees Prove Essential to Joint Task Force in Iraq

*By LT David McCoy, NMCB 1*

**T**he Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, Task Force Sierra Main Body (TFS MB) Det. led the way for a joint task force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, beginning in February.

Formed with personnel from both NMCBs 1 and 15, TFS MB was tasked with base maintenance, engineering and construction on a multitude of established bases and forward operating bases (FOBs).

Operations on one FOB included an expedited timetable for a 100-man tent camp, two 30 feet by 100 feet Southwest Asia huts, planning and team rooms, and expeditionary berthing. TFS MB provided all planning, design and utility layout for the FOB additions.

"From requirement tasking to Seabees on the ground, TFS MB executed the requirement in 25 days," said Chief Steelworker (SCW) Treasa Link, operations chief.

"The quality of leadership and the experience of the crew members motivated us," Builder 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Brian Kuester said. "With what we were already trained to do, we didn't have to ask many questions on minor issues, [and] we knew to make certain choices to inform the leadership of what we were doing."

**EA2 Scott Snyder, NMCB 15, Task Force Sierra Main Body, surveys the land at a prospective FOB in Iraq, Feb. 21.**

Photo by MC2 Demetrius Kennon





## Making a Difference in Iraq, One Village at a Time

By CDR Gabriel Lee, MC, and MCC (SCW) Jeffrey Pierce,  
22<sup>nd</sup> NCR Public Affairs



CDR Gabriel Lee, MC, 22<sup>nd</sup> NCR's regimental surgeon, presents a blanket to one of the many Iraqi children from the village of Ameriyah in Iraq to whom he provided medical care at a makeshift clinic.

Photo by EO2 (SCW) Timothy Walters

**“W**ith compassion for others, we build, we fight, for peace with freedom” is the long-standing motto for the Navy’s construction battalions.

22<sup>nd</sup> NCR

The concept of compassion and peace has never held more truth, as when the regimental surgeon for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) participated in a combined medical exercise on March 22.

In a joint effort with a Marine Corps security team from 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marines, medical staff and further augmentation, the convoy set out for the village of Ameriyah located in the Ferris region of Iraq. Its objective was to provide medical assistance to the local system and additional health services to the village.

“It was a privilege to be asked and an honor to provide my pediatric skills to the children of the area,” said CDR (Dr.) Gabriel Lee, 22<sup>nd</sup> NCR’s regimental surgeon.

Dr. Lee was actively engaged in providing primary care to more than 30 children who visited his makeshift clinic.

Working alongside an Iraqi pediatrician, Dr. Bramin, Lee was also educated on the specific issues unique to children in a war-torn area.

“These children need care, but I am just one of a few individuals who can help – we need more,” Bramin said. He appreciated the assistance provided by Lee, and was genuinely appreciative of the opportunity to work with a fellow pediatrician.

“I hope that I can continue to participate throughout our [22<sup>nd</sup> NCR] deployment,” Lee said. “I came into the Navy knowing that I would help the military by providing the best care to our military families, but now I feel I’m contributing much more for the Seabees and the Navy in this operational setting.”

## Seabees Use Welding Skills to Help Mend Broken Bone

By LT Anthony O’Daniel, NMCB 1 Public Affairs

NMCB 1  
30<sup>th</sup> NCR

**S**teelworker Constructionman Jacob Bullock, NMCB 1, and Utilitiesman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Patrick Long, 30<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) (Forward), stationed in Ramadi, Iraq, paused from their busy schedules to accommodate an unusual request from LCDR Jon Forsberg, an orthopedic surgeon attached to the Ramadi Surgical Team.

In January, an Iraqi boy named Mohommad was injured while playing around a civilian construction project. He accidentally overturned a wheelbarrow full of dry 50-kilogram cement bags which crushed the 5-year-old’s femur. His father and older brother splinted it as best they could and then sought help from the American military, which is where Dr. Forsberg came in.

“The splint Mohommad’s father and brother made for him was actually [...] good,” Forsberg stated. “However, given the seriousness of this type of fracture, we wanted to provide the lightest, strongest cast possible.”

This involved placing a kind of body cast – known as a Spica cast – which is where the two motivated Seabees pitched in.

With “Can Do” spirit, SWCN Bullock and UT2 Long took



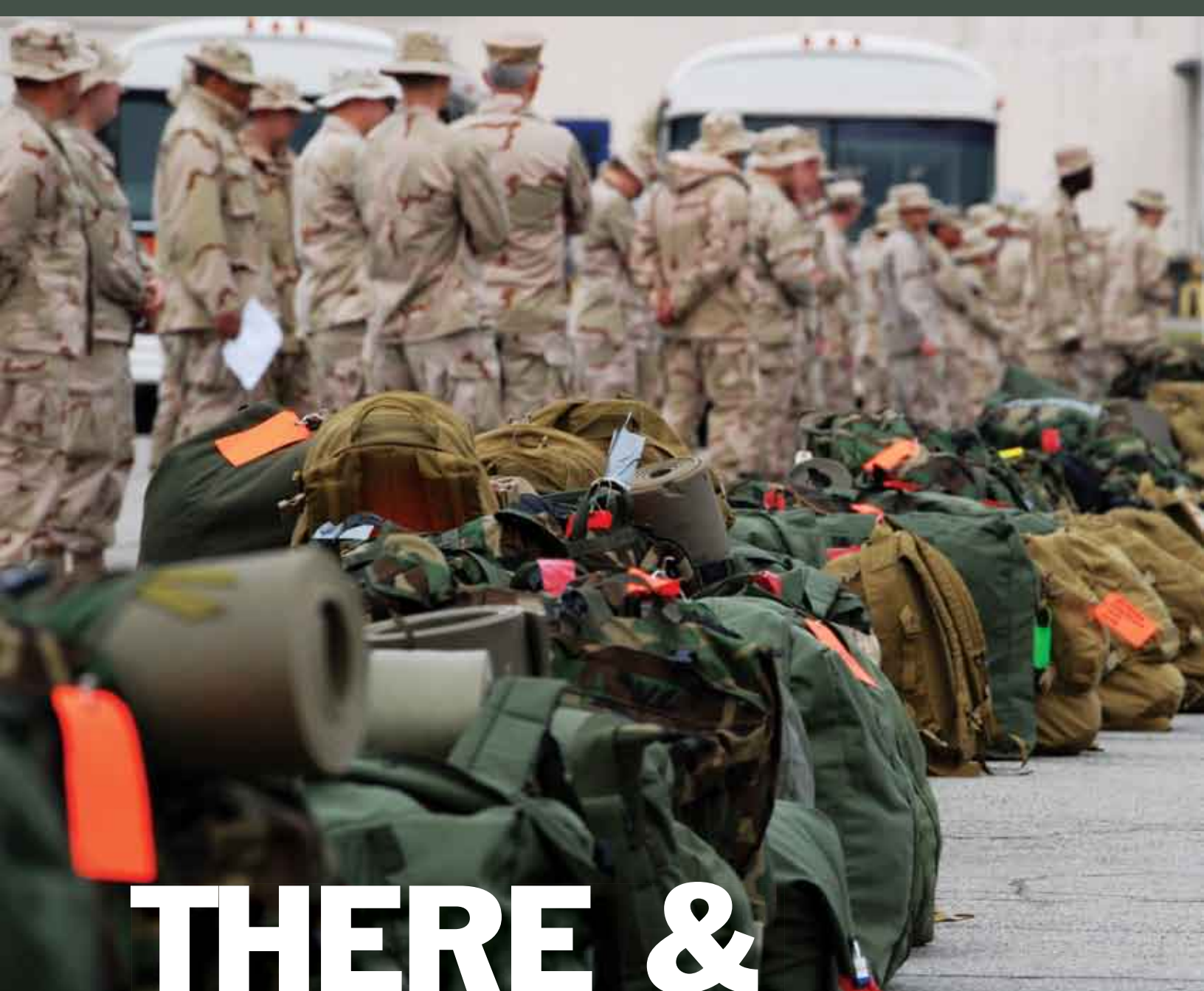
SWCN Jacob Bullock (left), NMCB 1, and UT2 Patrick Long (right), 30<sup>th</sup> NCR, pose with the father of a young Iraqi boy to present the special Spica table they made for his son’s medical treatment.

U.S. Navy photo

time out of their hectic day at the Ramadi construction materials yard to cut and weld a special Spica table to properly position Mohommad for the cast.

“We watched the surgical team put Mohommad to sleep and [we actually saw] our table being used,” Bullock said. “It took a bit of time because the cast was so big, but [everything] turned out great, according to the surgeon.”





# THERE & BACK



(Top) Seabees attached to NMCB 3 line up on the grinder at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif., as they prepare to turn in their gear prior to deploying to Iraq, April 4.

Photo by MC1 Carmichael Yepez

(Left) CAPT Kate Gregory, commodore, 30<sup>th</sup> NCR, is the first to welcome the regiment's Gold Team back to Naval Base Ventura County, Calif. More than 50 Seabees from the Gold Team's main body returned to eager family members after replacing the Blue Team in Fallujah on Sept. 11, 2007, marking the end of the regiment's year-long deployment.

Photo by MCSA Ernesto Hernandez Fonte



## DEPARTURES

NMCB 3 Seabees turn in their gear at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif., prior to their departure to Iraq in April.

Photo by MC1 Carmichael Yepez



## ARRIVALS

LT Wade Horton, engineering officer, watches his son walk for the first time during the homecoming of the 30<sup>th</sup> NCR's Gold Team at NAS Point Mugu, Calif., on March 18.

Photo by MCSA Ernesto Hernandez Fonte



## Transition Course Helps Bring Warriors Home

By MC2 Chad Runge, NMCB 1 Public Affairs

**T**he Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1's advanced party is one of the latest groups to participate in the Warrior Transition Program (WTP) at Camp Moreell, Kuwait, April 2, after a successful deployment to several locations across Iraq and Afghanistan.

"During our six-month deployment, mobility was a constant theme," said NMCB 1's Commanding Officer CDR Dean Tufts. "In December, my Seabees in the Pacific redeployed to Iraq and Afghanistan to fully align all of [NMCB 1] in U.S. Central Command. Operating out of seven main camps, we displaced to 43 different forward operating bases in support of our numerous supported commanders."

As the 'Bees continue back to their Gulfport, Miss., homeport, they will complete a three-day program to ensure the success of their next mission: maintaining healthy lifestyles and relationships as they reunite with family and loved ones.

The First Naval Construction Division established the WTP in 2006 to address the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each deployed service member. This Seabee WTP model would later be used by the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC) to help all Navy Individual Augmentees (IAs) redeploying from the CENTCOM area of operations. In the course of three days, service members rotate through discussion groups and training run by the battalion chaplain, safety officer, medical officer and staff members from their homeport Fleet and Family Support Center.

"For some, returning their lives back to the way they were prior to their deployment is a difficult transition to make," said NMCB 1's Command Chaplain LT Sharon Wheaton. "For six months, they've become accustomed to paying attention to every small detail of their mission, and may have very little tolerance for even the smallest mistake."

"Of course, this isn't a healthy trait in maintaining personal relationships," Wheaton added. "In the Warrior Transition Program, we assist these service members by easing them away from these practices, defusing short tempers and preparing them for many of the issues they may encounter in their reintroduction to their relationships."

While a wide variety of topics is covered in the program, each holds critical value to the returning service members.

"For those of us with a family waiting back home, this course couldn't be more important," said Culinary Specialist 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Charles Vaughn, who will soon reunite with his wife and five-year-old daughter. "The worst thing I can imagine is if my return home would cause problems with my family. It should be a happy time for everyone."

Another part of the curriculum is drug and alcohol training.

Most of the troops are grateful for the training they receive during the three days, believing that they will be able to put their newly acquired knowledge immediately to use.

**"...warrior transition also allows fellow shipmates who haven't seen each other in months to catch up on old times and share experiences."**

LCDR Anant Patel, Executive Officer, NMCB 1

"I think we can all take something valuable away from this curriculum," said ENS Teruo Toyama. "Most of us know how to drive already, but it's been six months since we were last on the road. The program just reminds us of things we need to do to keep ourselves safe for our return home."

However, one of the most crucial facets of the WTP cannot be found in the curriculum.

"After going seven days a week at full throttle for the past seven months, these three days provide us an opportunity to de-stress and just get some much-needed rest in a somewhat relaxed atmosphere," said LCDR Anant Patel, NMCB 1's executive officer. "Bringing everyone together once again, warrior transition also allows fellow shipmates who haven't seen each other in months to catch up on old times and share experiences."

*Editor's Note: NMCB 1 returned home to CBC Gulfport, Miss., in April.*

# Guam Honors Seabee Betty with Street Dedication



By LCDR Kyra Hawn, Public Affairs Officer, NAVFAC Marianas

A renaming ceremony was held March 14 to unveil Seabee Betty Drive, the main street transiting Camp Covington on Naval Base Guam, in honor of the late Vicenta Chargualaf Peredo, affectionately known as “Seabee Betty.”

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 Seabees, officers, family and friends were on hand to recognize and honor the many acts of kindness Peredo provided to deployed Seabees.

“Seabee Betty was, and still is, representative of the best of Guam, in her positive spirit and extension of hospitality, warmth, friendship and kindness,” said RADM William French, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, and U.S. Defense Representative to the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and Federated States of Micronesia.

Seabees from NMCB 5 were in formation at the ceremony, and provided perspective on the importance of more than five decades of Seabee Betty’s contributions to members of the Naval Construction Force.

“Being deployed to Guam without Seabee Betty is just not the same. We all miss her, and she always made us feel at home and made deployments here special,” said Construction Mechanic 1st Class Cleveland Peart, who met Betty during multiple Guam deployments early in his career.

Born in 1934 in the village of Yona, Seabee Betty began her relationship with service members deployed to Guam through her work at a naval base social establishment. Her support quickly extended outside the base, as she reached out to those far from home and invited them to become part of her extended local family. She hosted fiestas for each Seabee battalion and the hundreds of parties attended by thousands of ‘Bees over the years resulted in strengthening bonds between military members and the local community.

**“[Seabee] Betty...earned a place in the lore and history of Navy Seabees, never to be forgotten.”**

FORMC (SCW) James Fairbanks

“For those of us who have served, we appreciate what a simple afternoon spent among friends and away from the stresses of work can do for morale, well-being and unit cohesion,” said Seabee Force Master Chief (SCW) James Fairbanks, in a letter to Seabee Betty’s family. “Betty in her own way provided this for countless young men and women through the years, and earned a place in the lore and history of Navy Seabees, never to be forgotten. From all the Seabees and indeed the United States Navy, we thank her from the bottom of our hearts.”

Among the distinguished guests on hand at the ceremony were “Seabee Debbie” Peredo, daughter of Seabee Betty, and her husband, “Seabee Joe” Lujan, who have taken up the mantle of hosting Seabees in order to perpetuate the spirit and goodwill established by Seabee Betty.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, new street signs were unveiled, red balloons were released in memory of Seabee Betty and all in attendance stood to sing “*The Song of the Seabees*” in unison.

“This is such a great day,” remarked Peredo. “I know that Mom’s looking down on all of us with a great big smile.”



Debbie Peredo, daughter of the late Vicenta Chargualaf Peredo, affectionately known on Guam as “Seabee Betty,” displays a new street sign in honor of her mother during a ceremony at Camp Covington on Naval Base Guam. Seated next to Debbie Peredo is RADM Michael Giorgione, commander, NAVFAC Pacific. Seabee Betty opened her home and her heart to thousands of Seabees deployed to Guam for more than five decades.

Photo by LCDR Kyra Hawn,  
NAVFAC Marianas Public Affairs



# 1NCD Moves Closer to Command Post of the Future

*By Linda Wadley, Public Affairs Officer, NFELC*

**N**aval Construction Force (NCF) units added a state-of-the-art command post to their inventory with the deployment in late February of 20 Modular Command Post Systems (MCPS). Full implementation and training on the lightweight, mobile tactical units will be completed by mid-2008.

"This is the first time for the full outfitting of the NCF," said Dennis Rice, Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center (NFELC) Tactical Communications/IT manager. "NFELC, along with the First Naval Construction Division (1NCD), have been testing these systems for NCF use over the past several years."

Comprised of a full suite of video presentation software and hardware, framework to display the system, LAN cable-equipped tables, chairs and transport cases, the MCPS enhances the units' command and control capabilities. The MCPS can accommodate up to eight computers connected to three screens. The output from a video switcher allows for any or all screens to display what is coming out of multiple computers or digital devices. The system can also be set up by trained operators in the field in approximately 30 minutes.

"1NCD is moving closer to improve the electronic capabilities of the command and control COCs across all echelons of the NCF," said George Steffen, deputy training officer, 1NCD. "The program end-state is to have an adaptive, decision-centered visualization environment for the future commander."



**Dennis Rice (standing), NFELC Tactical Communications/ IT manager, demonstrates the use of the Modular Command Post Systems during a meeting with participating NCF unit representatives.**

*Photo by James P. Cencer, NFELC Public Affairs*



(At left) MCPON (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr. (left) receives the Silver Bee from RADM Greg Shear (right), commander, NAVFAC, and chief of civil engineers, at the Washington D.C. Area CEC/NAVFAC/Seabee Anniversary Ball on March 8. FORCM Master Chief James Fairbanks holds the certificate presented to the MCPON making him an honorary member of the Seabees.

Photo by MC1(EXW) Jennifer Villalovos

(Right) EA2 Robert Wetzel (background) NMCB 1, Task Force Sierra Main Body, folds an American flag after flying it over Iraq on March 5, the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seabees. Wetzel presented the flag to his one-year-old son after he arrived home from deployment.

Photo by MC2 Demetrius Kennon

(Far right) RADM Greg Shear, commander, NAVFAC, and chief of civil engineers, EOCA Kenny Lay and CAPT (Ret.) Bob Thomas cut the birthday cake for the 66<sup>th</sup> Seabee and 141<sup>st</sup> CEC Anniversary Ball in San Diego, Calif., March 15. In keeping with naval tradition, the oldest and the youngest Seabee at the ball came forward to cut the cake with RADM Shear. More than 450 Navy personnel and families commemorated the Seabee and CEC birthdays.

Photo by MC3 Brian Morales

## MCPON Named Honorary Seabee

By MCCS (SW/AW) Bill Houlihan, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Public Affairs

The highest ranking active duty enlisted man in the Navy is now an honorary Seabee. Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr. was designated an Honorary 'Bee by RADM Greg Shear, commander, NAVFAC, and chief of civil engineers, and Seabee Force Master Chief (FORCM) (SCW) James Fairbanks during the Seabees' 66<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in the Washington, D.C. area, March 8.

Seabees and personnel assigned to the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) and Navy Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) attended the celebration, highlighted by remarks from guest speaker Campa. In addition to the Seabee birthday, attendees also celebrated NAVFAC's 166<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the CEC's 141<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

During his remarks, Campa mentioned the Seabee legacy and how it was established in World War II.

"Today's Seabees continue that legacy of service. It's alive and well and that's what we celebrate here tonight, a tradition of selfless service, sacrifice and commitment to the values and principles that have kept the Seabee community strong, united and full of purpose for 66 years," said Campa.

Prior to Campa's remarks, the Seabees honored Retired Master Chief Constructionman (SCW) Joseph DeFranco with the 2008 Distinguished Service Award for his work in support of the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association.

# Happy!

## Seabees Reflect on 66 Years of Tradition

By MC2 Demetrius Kennon, NMCB 1 Public Affairs

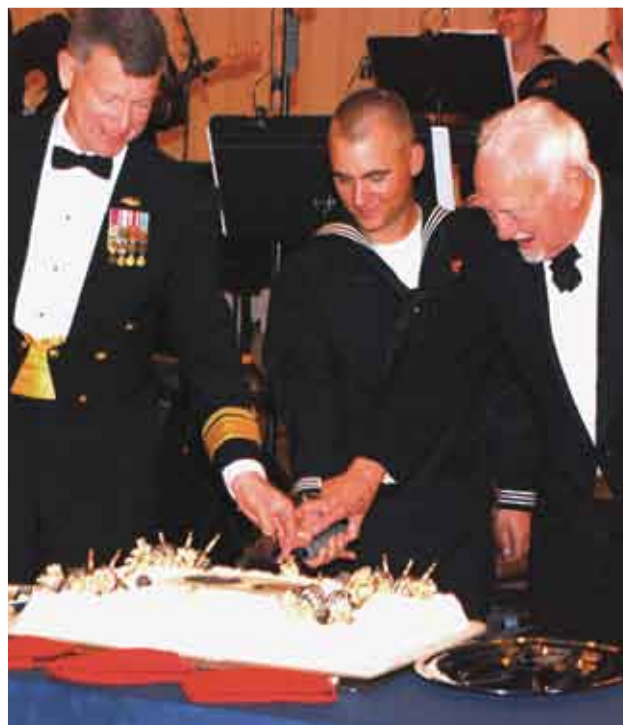
Members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, Task Force Sierra Main Body (TFS MB), part of a joint task force in Iraq, reflected on their time in the Naval Construction Force on March 5, 2008, by celebrating the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seabees.

"It's about tradition, pride. We celebrate to show our troops what we do and why we're here," said Chief Equipment Operator (SCW) Helen Daniel, TFS MB Alfa Company's leading chief petty officer.

To honor the day, one Seabee reenlisted, another wore his Seabee Combat Warfare (SCW) designation for the first time and another flew an American flag over Iraq to take home to his one-year-old son – three acts of loyalty.

"Seabees make things safer and better for the Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Sailors who are out there fighting on the front lines," said





## West Coast Seabees Celebrate Birthday

*By MC3 Brian Morales, ACB 1 Public Affairs*

Seabees assigned to Naval Beach Group 1, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southwest, Amphibious Construction Battalion 1, Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303, Naval Special Warfare Group 1 Logistics Support Unit and various other San Diego local area commands celebrated the 66<sup>th</sup> Seabee and 141<sup>st</sup> Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) anniversaries on March 15.

More than 450 people attended the event to catch up with old friends stationed in the Southwest region and celebrate a common history among several diverse communities.

Among those in attendance was Pearl Harbor survivor CAPT (Ret.) Bob Thomas. As the oldest Seabee at the event, Thomas came forward to cut the birthday cake along with the youngest Seabee, Equipment Operator Constructionman Apprentice Kenny Lay.

"With compassion for others, we build and we fight, for peace with freedom," said guest speaker RADM Greg Shear, commander, NAVFAC, and chief of civil engineers, as he opened his speech with a motivating quote from ADM Ben Moreell. He added, "When I take this uniform off and I'm no longer in the service, and someone asks me, What did you do? I won't talk about anything other than being one of the Seabees because that's what makes me the most proud."

The ceremony concluded with the announcement of the San Diego area Seabee of the Year, Utilitiesman 1<sup>st</sup> Class (SCW/FMF) Eric Miller, Naval Special Warfare Group 1.

Chief Storekeeper (SCW/AW) Patrick Atwara, TFS MB Supply leading chief petty officer, who recently earned his SCW designation and is on his first tour with the Seabees.

"It means we're here, boots on the ground. We're building, and if we have to defend it, then we'll defend it because it's ours," said Daniel, who reenlisted with the Seabees for four years. "We take great pride in that."

The need for a responsive, capable construction force to build advance bases in a war zone was evident almost seven decades ago and is essential to the modern war fighter. Seabees today are identified by their hard hats, camouflage uniforms, Seabee patch on their left breast pocket, and their "Can Do" attitudes. The 1940s promotional posters which portrayed the Seabees enjoying their jobs during those difficult times only affirm that the tradition has endured.



**Editor's Note:**

*The following contains excerpts from "The Seabees in World War II," by Admiral Ben Moreell, in his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary article in the March 1962 issue of Proceedings magazine. It is reprinted with the permission of the U.S. Naval Institute. Copyright © 1962 U.S. Naval Institute/www.usni.org.*

**ADM Ben Moreell**

*U.S. Navy photo, c. 1946*

The idea of a uniformed construction force originated at Great Lakes during World War I and served as a basis for war planning between the two world wars. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, civilian contractors and their employees could not be used effectively in combat areas. A civilian bearing arms would be considered a guerrilla, liable to summary execution if captured. Furthermore, the capture of civilian contractor employees at Wake, Guam, and Cavite [during WWII] demonstrated that few could protect themselves when under fire. Since most construction workers are physically rugged and mentally toughened, it was believed that they could be given military training in a relatively short time so they could be used effectively in combat.

By ADM Ben Moreell

# Seabee Heritage 101



**Iwo Jima Then and Now**

**(Background)**

Seabees and Marines attend Easter services atop Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima, on April 1, 1945.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Naval Institute

**(Inset left)** CECS (SCW) Alex Bautista (left) and LTJG Andrew Hayes, NAVFAC Far East Public Works Department Atsugi, visit a memorial dedicated to those who died at the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II.

Photo by NAVFAC Far East Public Affairs





According to the Seabees, the difficult they did immediately, the impossible took a little longer, but they always got the job done. (Pictured at top) Seabees build a windmill washer for battalion laundry.

(Above) Undeterred by minor distractions, these Builder Warriors discuss plans and details for seaplane runway ramps.

Photos courtesy of the U.S. Naval Institute



On December 28, 1941, the Bureau of Yards and Docks (present-day NAVFAC) requested authorization to organize three Construction Battalions, each consisting of 1,073 men and 32 officers. Each battalion was to be self-sufficient for carrying out any construction work assigned to it. Construction Battalions soon became known as CBs, and this soon turned into *Seabees*.

#### *What kind of men were they?*

According to the Seabees themselves, “A Seabee is a soldier in a sailor’s uniform, with Marine training, doing civilian work at WPA [Works Progress Administration] wages.” The Seabees were typical American craftsmen. Almost every trade and profession was represented in the ranks of the Seabees.

The enlisted Seabees were older than their colleagues in the other branches of the Navy and in the Marine Corps. Their average age was about 33, while the men in the general service of the Navy and the Marines were 10 years or more younger. There was considerable unofficial flexibility in the Seabee age limit.

#### *Where did they serve?*

It is difficult to find any active combat zone where there were no Seabees. They participated in every amphibious operation in the Pacific. They were in North Africa, in Sicily, and at Salerno [Italy]. They handled the artificial harbor, landing barges, causeways and fueling facilities at Omaha Beach in Normandy.

#### *What kinds of work did they do?*

In addition to the regular Construction Battalions building the advance bases toward Japan, specialized types of battalions, units and detachments were organized as new needs developed.

Largest among these were the “Seabee Special” battalions used primarily for stevedore duty. Their job was the hazardous loading and unloading of ships in war zones where there were usually no docking facilities.

The Construction Battalion Maintenance Units (CBMUs), about one-fourth the size of a regular battalion, took over the maintenance of the work built by the regular battalions. There were other groups ranging from six to 500 men designated as “Seabee detachments.”

#### *What made the Seabees ‘tick?’*

By far, most of the Seabees were volunteers. The Seabees had high morale because they knew their jobs and they knew what the war was about. They were anxious to “get it over with” and get home. They were doing what they wanted to do voluntarily.

#### *What did the ‘top brass’ under whom they served, and others with whom they were associated, think of them?*

General MacArthur, in conferring the Presidential Citation on the 40<sup>th</sup> Seabees, said in part, “After working all day and fighting all night, small parties of the Construction Battalion personnel still found time during their few hours of leisure off-duty to rout out small bands of the enemy, locate and report pill-boxes, and otherwise carry the offensive to the enemy’s position. The cheerful and uncomplaining attitude of these engineers and the outstanding *esprit de corps* was noticeable to all associated with the unit and created an immediate resurgence of the offensive spirit in weary troops.”

During a call made on General MacArthur at his headquarters in Brisbane, Australia, in February 1944, he quipped, “The only trouble with you Seabees is that I do not have enough of them.”

Those were the Seabees – who could indeed do the impossible.



## Seabees from NMCBs 4, 14 and 74 Receive 2007 Stethem, Combs and Shields Awards

RADM Greg Shear, Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) and Chief of Civil Engineers announced the recipients of the 2007 Stethem, Combs and Shields awards.

These annual awards are presented to recognize individual contributions to the traditions and legacies of the Seabees.



BUC James Hix (pictured at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, Africa), NMCB 74, received the 2007 Stethem Award for inspirational leadership while serving as mission commander in Iraq. Hix is currently operations chief for NMCB 74's Det. Horn of Africa which is conducting humanitarian missions.

Photo by MC3 John Hulle

STEELWORKER 2<sup>ND</sup> CLASS ROBERT D. STETHEM AWARD

### **BUC James Hix, NMCB 74**

By MC2 Gregory N. Juday, NMCB 74 Public Affairs

Chief Builder James Hix has been selected as the 2007 Stethem Award recipient for his outstanding moral courage and unprecedented achievements while serving as NMCB 74 mission commander and operations chief in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom from October 2006 to April 2007. The Stethem Award is presented by the Seabee Historical Foundation.

"Chief Hix is an extremely talented operations chief and is highly motivated. Troops are drawn toward his leadership," said Senior Chief Builder Anthony Chance, safety officer, NMCB 74. "He is an awesome tactician, taking on the most dangerous missions in downtown Ar Ramadi...with no communication with the battalion and not the best of scenarios, making sure all the Seabees under his command made it home safely to their families."

His courageous performance as mission commander was crucial in the completion of four highly visible and extremely dangerous construction missions, many times performed under direct hostile fire, greatly improving the battle space commander's ability to stabilize downtown Ar Ramadi. Serving as operations chief, he bravely led his Seabees into high-risk combat environments, completing 50 contingency projects and providing U.S. and host nation forces with critical upgrades to operational facilities.

*Named for Steelworker 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (DV) Robert Dean Stethem, the award recognizes outstanding individual moral courage in support of the traditions of the Seabees while in the course of actual operations. Petty Officer Stethem was a victim of the hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in June 1985, after being singled out from passengers as a U.S. Navy Sailor and killed when terrorist demands were not met. He was returning home with fellow members of UCT 1 after completing a routine assignment in Greece.*





**BU3 (Ret.) Pete Herrick** receives the 2007 Combs Award from **RADM Greg Shear**, commander, NAVFAC, and chief of civil engineers, while Herrick's wife, **Diana**, looks on. Shear presented the award to Herrick at the Seabee Ball in Washington, D.C., in March 2008.

Photo by MC1 (EXW) Jennifer Villalovos, MCPON Public Affairs

## REAR ADMIRAL LEWIS B. COMBS AWARD

### **Builder 3<sup>rd</sup> Class (Ret.) Pete Herrick, NMCB 14**

*By CDR Gary Rouse, Commanding Officer, NMCB 14*

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 14 salutes Builder 3<sup>rd</sup> Class (Ret.) Pete Herrick as the recipient of the 2007 Combs Award. This award is presented by the Seabee Historical Foundation, and is given to an individual who displays the highest level of fortitude, courage and character in support of the traditions and legacies of the Seabees.

Just two months before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, Herrick joined the Navy Reserve as a Seabee; in March 2004, his unit was called to active duty and sent to Iraq. After a "routine" escort mission, his unit suffered a mortar attack which killed five and wounded 33, including Herrick. His body was riddled with shrapnel, one large fragment leaving him paralyzed from the neck down.

Petty Officer Herrick was taken to Baghdad for emergency medical care and eventually to Tampa, Fla.'s James Haley Veterans Administration Hospital, where he spent 10 months. Through it all, he maintained and displayed a positive attitude and a strong faith.

Now medically retired, Herrick spends a great deal of his time as a motivational speaker, positively promoting the Seabees and serving as the unofficial spokesperson for the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at the Haley VA Hospital. He spends countless hours working with veterans who have life-changing injuries, using his positive attitude and motivation to continue to dedicate his life to helping his fellow Americans.

*This award is named in honor of RADM Lewis B. Combs and is presented to an individual who has made the most outstanding contribution in perpetuating the legacy of the Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC). Combs served as chief deputy to Admiral Ben Moreell, founder of the Seabees, and helped create the "fighter builders" and the CEC. He was active with the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association from its inception in 1970, first as Chairman of the Board of Directors and later as Chairman Emeritus, until his death at age 101.*



**BU1 (SCW) Courtland T. Sawyer** (left), recipient of the 2007 Shields Award, discusses the tactical procedures of Convoy Security Element, Team 2, with **RADM Richard E. Cellon**, commander, 1NCD, at Al Taqaddum, Iraq, earlier this year.

Photo by MC2 (SCW/SW/AW) Ronald Gutridge

## CONSTRUCTION MECHANIC 3<sup>RD</sup> CLASS MARVIN G. SHIELDS AWARD

### **Builder 1<sup>st</sup> Class (SCW) Courtland T. Sawyer, NMCB 4**

*By MC2 (SCW/SW/AW) Ronald Gutridge, NMCB 4*

The recipient of the 2007 Shields Award is Builder 1<sup>st</sup> Class Courtland Sawyer, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4. This award is presented by the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) to an individual who best exhibits inspirational leadership and high standards of excellence instrumental to the success of the battalion in a year's time.

While serving as Air Det. convoy security platoon commander, convoy security element assistant convoy commander and Charlie Company platoon commander, Sawyer's outstanding versatility and achievements were remarkable. He completed 122 combat convoy missions, escorting personnel and equipment while performing more than 12,000 miles of convoy operations in and around the Al Anbar Province. Sawyer time and again demonstrated his impressive leadership as he successfully led his convoy out of a well-coordinated machine gun ambush and two separate IED attacks, one of which damaged his vehicle.

A highly respected leader and mentor, his complete dedication to duty, high standards and attention to detail allowed his troops to excel in every aspect of their challenging mission. By his actions, Petty Officer Sawyer has distinguished himself as a true leader in the direct support of the II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

*This award is presented for outstanding technical and leadership ability, and is given in honor of Construction Mechanic 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Marvin Shields, a 26-year-old Seabee serving in Vietnam with NMCB 11 in 1965. Shields' unit, along with Army Special Forces and South Vietnam Defense personnel, came under attack by 2,000 Viet Cong and, although greatly outnumbered, withstood intense close-range combat for almost three hours. Shields and an Army lieutenant volunteered to man a rocket launcher, destroying an enemy machine gun position. Despite repeatedly being hit, Shields fought on until he was mortally wounded; he died the following day while being evacuated by helicopter. For these heroic actions, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor – becoming the first (and so far only) Seabee to win the nation's highest award, and also the first Navy man to be so decorated for action in Vietnam.*



**RADM Richard E. Cellon (right), commander, 1NCD, presents CDR Tony Edmonds, NMCB 3 commanding officer, with the 2007 Battle 'E' award during a ceremony at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif., March 21.**

Photo by MCSN Ernesto Hernandez Fonte

#### PERRY AWARD

### NMCB 28 "Old Pros" Win Perry Award

By MC1 (SW) Kurt Riggs, NAVFAC Headquarters Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28 has earned the Rear Admiral John R. Perry Award as the most outstanding reserve component in 2007. The Perry Award is presented by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC).

According to the citation awarded by RADM Greg Shear, commander, NAVFAC, and chief of civil engineers, the men and women of NMCB 28 had their most successful deployment in history, providing superior contingency construction, contingency planning and logistics, and operations support while supporting military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Through superb small unit leadership, exceptional command and control, and living in an extreme physical environment, NMCB 28 ensured complete mission success in a very demanding and uncertain operating environment. The battalion's performance far exceeded all expectations, allowing supported commanders to execute their mission with greater effect. "The Old Pros" clearly upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Navy Seabees.

*Named for two legendary and distinguished CEC/Seabee leaders – Rear Admiral Eugene J. Peltier and Rear Admiral John R. Perry – the Peltier and Perry awards recognize the most outstanding Naval Construction Battalions in the active and reserve components, respectively. Units selected for these prestigious awards are recognized leaders in the Naval Construction Force in leadership, readiness, construction accomplishments, equipment management, logistics programs, retention and safety.*

*The Battle 'E' (Efficiency) Award is presented to a U.S. Navy unit, squadron or ship based on the overall readiness of the command to carry out its assigned wartime tasks. Based on a year-long evaluation, a unit must demonstrate the highest state of battle readiness.*

#### BATTLE "E" AND PELTIER AWARDS

### "Better than Best" NMCB 3 Recognized as Top Active Duty Seabee Battalion in the Navy

By MC1 Carmichael Yopez, NMCB 3 Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 were recognized as the best active duty Seabee battalion in the Navy during a presentation ceremony at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif., March 21.

RADM Richard E. Cellon, commander, First Naval Construction Division (1NCD), who presented the 2007 Battle 'E' and Society of American Military Engineers' (SAME) Rear Admiral Eugene J. Peltier Award, said he was proud of the Seabees of NMCB 3 for their recent accomplishment.

"I am honored to present these awards," Cellon said. "Not only are you the best battalion in the Pacific, but as the Peltier Award winner, you are the best active duty battalion in the Naval Construction Force."

The men and women of NMCB 3 distinguished themselves in many aspects of performance while executing a rigorous Pacific deployment and expertly establishing a short-focused detail to Afghanistan in direct support of Special Operations Forces and the global war on terrorism.

NMCB 3's Commanding Officer CDR Tony Edmonds gave full credit to his Seabees and said he would continue to provide his full support and respect.

"I feel honored to be in command of the "Better than Best," said Edmonds. "We can be pretty hard on ourselves at times, but these awards are a nice payback...a tribute to all of the Seabees in THREE who have pushed themselves to perform at their highest level."

This is the first time Construction Electrician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (SCW) Joseph Soriano received a Battle 'E' award since he joined the Navy.

"I can say that I am glad to be part of a battalion that stands out," Soriano said. "We have focused a lot on safety training and awareness. All the hard work we've committed to during our field exercises and command post exercises has paid off, and is going to show when I have my new ribbon."



## Seabee Achieves Third Warfare Qualification in Less Than Four Years

MC3 Patrick W. Mullen III,  
NMCB 5 Public Affairs

Construction Mechanic 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Christopher J. Chandler (SCWS/EAWS/ESWS), Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 completed his third warfare designation in Okinawa, Japan, on March 15, achieving this career milestone in less than four years.

CM2 Chandler reported to "The Professionals" of NMCB 5 in April 2006. While deployed to Kuwait he started on the third designation and was most recently 'pinned' Seabee Warfare Combat Specialist (SCWS) by CDR L.S. Hurst, commanding officer, NMCB 5, at Camp Shields.

"I am very proud of my accomplishment and hard work," Chandler said. "It was not easy – lots of long nights studying. Without the help of shipmates and fellow Seabees none of these pins would be on my chest. I owe all my thanks to the great leadership that surrounds me."

His future plans include college, and he has a goal to obtain even more warfare qualifications beginning with the Fleet Marine Force (FMF) pin, followed by Naval Parachutist (PJ) or any other warfare designation possible.

**CM2 Christopher J. Chandler (SCWS/EAWS/ESWS) (right), NMCB 5, receives his third warfare designation from CDR L.S. Hurst, commanding officer, NMCB 5, at Camp Shields in Okinawa, Japan, in March.**

Photo by MC3 (AW) Patrick W. Mullen III



**NMCB 40 Executive Officer LCDR William Siemer swears in the battalion's 35 Seabees who reenlisted at Port Hueneme, Calif., Feb. 29.**

Photo by MC2 Ian Lundy

## NMCB 40 Holds Mass Reenlistment Ceremony

By MC2 Scott Torres, NMCB 40

The last day of February was a memorable one for 35 Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 at Port Hueneme, Calif. After returning from a six-month deployment to Southwest Asia, Feb. 29 marked the last day for this motivated group of Seabees to reenlist and still receive a tax-free Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB). Reenlistees were joined by hundreds of families, friends and shipmates.

The brainchild of Chief Navy Counselor Doug Park and Steelworker 1<sup>st</sup> Class Luis Ortiz, the mass reenlistment was scheduled for the last day of February to allow time for the National Defense Authorization Act to be signed by President George W. Bush, for the pause in SRBs to be lifted and to enable those Seabees who were deployed to combat zones to collect their SRBs tax free. Fortunately, the plan worked as advertised and, in all, the 35 reenlistments represented more than 140 years of additional service and the award of \$400K+ in reenlistment bonuses. While the SRBs are not the primary reason to reenlist, they are often a great incentive for our Seabees – and the tax-free status is just icing on the cake.

"Every one of the Seabees standing on that stage decided several years ago to serve and defend their country, and on that Friday morning they reaffirmed their commitment by taking the oath again," said LCDR William Siemer, NMCB 40's executive officer, who swore in the reenlistees. "These Seabees get it; they understand what the lifestyle of service to their country is all about. They committed themselves again to the principles and values that this nation holds dear."



FORCM (SCW) Mike Holdcraft  
Photo by MC1 (SW) Kurt Riggs

## New Force Master Chief Takes Charge

By MC1 (SW) Kurt Riggs,  
NAVFAC Headquarters Public Affairs

Master Chief (SCW) Mike Holdcraft relieved Seabee Force Master Chief James Fairbanks in April. Fairbanks is now Command Master Chief, CBC Gulfport, Miss.

Formerly command master chief of the 30<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Regiment, FORCM Holdcraft was selected over a field of highly qualified candidates by RADM Greg Shear, commander, NAVFAC, and chief of civil engineers.

Holdcraft will be featured in a future issue of Seabee Magazine.



## 22<sup>nd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> NCRs

(Above left) CAPT Robert A. McLean (right), commander, 22<sup>nd</sup> NCR, relieves CAPT Hans Probst, commander, 30<sup>th</sup> NCR (Fwd), during a Transfer of Authority (ToA) ceremony held aboard Camp Fallujah, Iraq, March 11.

(Above right) Seabees of the 22<sup>nd</sup> NCR stand at parade rest during their ToA ceremony with the 30<sup>th</sup> NCR (Fwd). The 22<sup>nd</sup> NCR is providing engineering support to Multi-National Forces-West operations in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

Photos by MC1 Christine Hannon

## TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY ☆

### NMCBs 15, 17

(Below) NMCB 17's Commanding Officer CDR Thomas Bauhan (left) and CMDCM (SCW) Robert Griseto cut the cake at the Transfer of Authority (ToA) ceremony at the Seabee Compound in Iraq, March 16.



(Above) CDR Steven Wolfe (left), NMCB 15's commanding officer, stands at attention across from CDR Thomas Bauhan, NMCB 17's commanding officer, as the NMCB 17 flag is raised during the Transfer of Authority (ToA) ceremony at the Seabee Compound in Iraq, March 16. Looking on is LTJG Glen Mowder, NMCB 15.

Photos by MC2 Kenny Ragland





# Battalion Updates

## SEABEES AROUND THE WORLD

### Seabees Play Integral Part in Balikatan 2008

NMCB 5

UCT 2

*By MCSA Ernesto Hernandez Fonte, 30<sup>th</sup> NCR Public Affairs*

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 and Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 participated in school construction and renovation projects as part of Balikatan 2008, which ended March 14.

Balikatan means “shoulder-to-shoulder” and Republic of the Philippines (RP) and U.S. Forces shouldered the load together to help people in need on Mindanao, the second largest island in the RP.

“The Bees were an integral part of Balikatan. Without them literally none of the construction projects could have gotten off the ground,” said Army Capt. Merrit Phillips, Joint Special Operations Task Force – Philippines (JSOTF-P) public affairs.

While NMCB 5 members routinely practice their construction trades above ground, UCT 2 is known primarily for supporting construction efforts underwater. Although the battalion did not conduct diving evolutions on this mission, it was able to use the exercise as a pre-site visit for future projects, as well as hone Seabee construction skills.

As UCT 2 worked in the town of Marawi, NMCB 5 Air Det. worked with the 512<sup>th</sup> and 518<sup>th</sup> RP Engineer Combat Battalions to build a new elementary school house in the town of Midsayap and renovate two elementary school houses in the town of Tacurong.

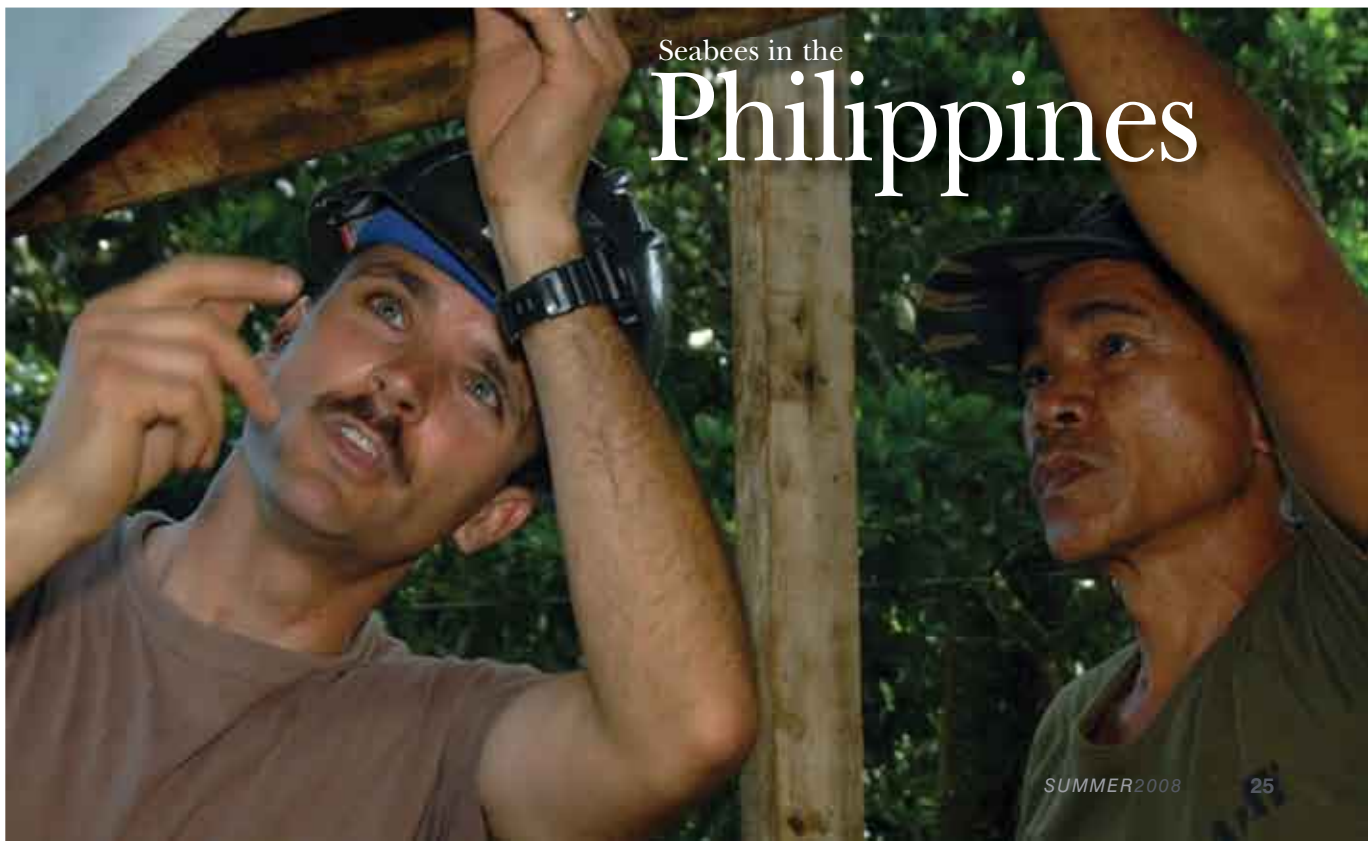
“It wasn’t until we got to the ribbon-cutting ceremony with the U.S. ambassador and the local community that our eyes were opened to how many people would be positively affected by what we have done in Balikatan,” said Construction Electrician 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rodriguez Lynn, administrative officer in charge of UCT 2 Air Det. Alfa.

As Navy ambassadors to the world, Seabees contribute to the maritime strategy of preventing war by supporting humanitarian efforts that build trust and demonstrate goodwill.

“If the population has more trust in the military [and government], then they are more likely to go to them for security than to the militants,” said Army Col. William Coultrup, JSOTF-P commander.

CM1 Benoit Lagueux (left), UCT 2, and his Philippine counterpart work shoulder-to-shoulder building and repairing Basak Elementary School in Marawi, Feb. 20. The school construction and repair is one of many engineering civil affairs projects completed during Balikatan 2008.

Photo by MCC (SW/AW)  
Gabe Puello



Seabees in the  
**Philippines**



**CE3 Andrew Thompson, SW3 Juan Lopez and BU3 Victor Perea, NMCB 5, bend and tie reinforcing steel used to strengthen the foundation of a structure at Hario Shima Ordnance Facility, Sasebo, Japan, in January.**

Photo by LT Jared A. Jasinski

## Sasebo Seabees Solve Ordnance Facility Flooding Problem

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5, Detail Sasebo Seabees solved a major water drainage issue at the Hario Shima Ordnance Facility, Sasebo, Japan, in January. The Pacific Seabees' mission was to install a 300-foot concrete channel to carry water from the steep hillsides surrounding the ordnance building to the adjacent bay.

The terrain of the base is ideal for ordnance storage due to the minimal blast radius required between sites. The challenge these Seabees faced was to prevent water from entering and flooding the facility.

"The problem is not digging a channel," said Steelworker 1<sup>st</sup> Class (SCW) Jackson Sheflin, project supervisor. "It's making sure that in 20 to 30 years, our final product still moves water off the site."

The design solution was the installation of pre-cast concrete U-shaped ditches that when placed together carry water off the site. The complete process involved Seabees excavating a trench, installing a gravel base layer, compacting a sand layer, and meticulously placing the U ditches. The final product provides a continuous surface, carrying water off the site as efficiently as possible.

The Seabees completed the project in mid-February and then moved to a similar project at another Hario Shima ordnance facility.

## Hard-working Mechanics Keep Battalion Up to Speed

*Articles by MC1 (SW) Palmer Pinckney II, NMCB 5 Public Affairs*

At year-end, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5's Alfa Company, headquartered at Camp Shields, Okinawa, Japan, had completed more than 500 maintenance checks on 360+ pieces of CESE while deployed, supporting area commanders' construction requirements.

The 41 construction mechanics (CMs) assigned to the camp's equipment maintenance division manage eight shops consisting of administrative offices, tool rooms, warehouses, repair shops and a technical library.

Chief Construction Mechanic (SCW) Chad L. Keeler, NMCB 5's Alfa Company maintenance chief, expressed

his approval for the mechanics' hard work. "Alfa Company is doing an outstanding job with the maintenance program," CMC Keeler said. "The mechanics have a great responsibility keeping the vehicles rolling with only half the mechanics needed to maintain this amount of equipment. Everyone is doing his part and learning more every day."

Although CMs are not normally seen on the jobsite, they are vital players on the battalion team, repairing and maintaining a wide variety of CESE: tactical and construction vehicles, power plants, and buses, vans and trucks used to transport troops. Along with performing regular preventive maintenance, CMs also troubleshoot and provide quick repairs needed to keep the battalion moving.

# Seabees in Japan

NMCB 5





**Project Foreman BU2 Sean Mallory (second from left), NMCB 74, directs the concrete flow for a foundation for the pro shop at the Guantanamo Golf Course in Cuba.**

JTF Guantanamo photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Scott Griffin

## Seabees in Guantanamo

NMCB 74

NMCB 14

### GITMO is Tailored for Seabee Mission

*By U.S. Army Sgt. Scott Griffin, JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs*

Sizzling in the mid-day heat at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in early March, more than half-a-dozen Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 Seabees prepared to fill a blocked-off area with concrete.

"This is back-breaking work, make no mistake," Builder 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Sean Mallory, project foreman at Joint Task Force (JTF) Guantanamo, said. "A two-and-a-half gallon pail of concrete weighs about 65 pounds."

With Seabees spending so much time in war zones, non-combat sites such as Guantanamo provide an opportunity for training without hazardous concerns. The mission is unique and varied, with some Seabees working on discretionary projects (such as a pro shop at a golf course), and others working on a fire truck garage.

"[Guantanamo Bay is] one of the last classic Seabee detachment sites," LT Jason Christianson, detachment officer in charge, said. "Almost half our detachment is made up of steelworkers and builders – tailored for the mission at hand."

NMCB 74 is working in a joint status at Guantanamo with Reserve members from NMCB 14.

"Every Seabee goes through A School beforehand," Christianson said. "You can learn about it and put up your mock wall, but until you do the real thing there's a huge difference."

### NMCB 5 Completes Major Bridge Project Off California Coast

*By MC1 (SW) Palmer Pinckney II, NMCB 5 Public Affairs*

NMCB 5

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 hit the ground running in January as the 'Bees demolished and replaced a bridge leading to the Navy's largest training area – San Clemente Island.

The island includes an active bombing range, the Shore Bombardment Area (SHOBA), operated by the Southern California Off-shore Range (SCORE). The SHOBA Range is the only PACFLT range which can support naval surface fire support, artillery/mortar and air-to-ground training.

More than three years ago, the existing bridge was deemed unsafe and all targets headed for observation area two had to be airlifted into place, creating a tremendous logistical strain on SCORE's mission and range operations.

In order to complete the mission, NMCB 5's Detail San Clemente had to place more than 14 cubic yards of concrete for two new abutments to launch an 80-foot triple, single Bailey Bridge across the span. This included an explosive ordnance disposal sweep for unexploded ordnance (UXO), involving hand-excavation and removal of rock weighing 400+ pounds. In the process, NMCB 5 discovered a Mark 76 (25-pound practice bomb) and disposed of it by UXO.

After hand-carrying all 190 bridge pieces – some weighing 780 pounds each – to the staging area, the Bailey Bridge was assembled and launched in mid-January on schedule, without incident and just in time for a busy SHOBA season.

## Seabees in California



**NMCB 5 Seabees launch the nose of a Bailey Bridge off San Clemente Island, Calif., in January.**

Photo by LT Benjamin V. Wainwright



# Seabees in Korea

NMCB 5

## NMCB 5 'Professionals' and Republic of Korea Navy Refurbish Orphanage

*By MC1 (SW) Palmer Pinckney II, NMCB 5 Public Affairs*

Seabees have maintained an enduring relationship with the Aikwangwon Orphanage in Koje-do, an island off the coast of Chinhae, Korea. In keeping with the tradition, the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5, Detail Chinhae spent March 15 making needed improvements to the facility. In 1952, Seabees built a chicken coop at the then brand-new orphanage. Since that first act of community service 56 years ago, Aikwangwon has grown into a large housing complex for children and disabled residents of all ages.

This year, Seabees partnered with sailors from the Republic of Korea Navy Engineering Command. The two groups worked together to refurbish railings, as well as assist residents with a bazaar.

"It was a great experience for those of us not used to working in that situation," said Builder 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Chase Luna. "I had a good time and would love to go back."

Builder 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Jonathon Bosch stated, "It was nice to be able to work out in the community and help spruce up the orphanage. The residents were grateful and it was a good opportunity for them to see American Seabees and Korean sailors working together."



SW3 Kurt W. Hennigan, NMCB 5, interacts with a resident of the Aikawangwon Orphanage in Koje-do, Republic of Korea.

U.S. Navy photo



NMCB 5 Seabees and Republic of Korea Navy Engineering Command sailors pose for a group shot in mid-March with residents of the Aikawangwon Orphanage in Koje-do, after completing a community relations project to improve their quality of life.

U.S. Navy photo



# TRAINING

## Seabees Hone Construction Skills in California Desert

*By ENS John Kvandal, Public Affairs Officer, NMCB 3*

NMCB 3

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 returned to Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif., after spending two weeks honing their construction skills in February. During the exercise, known as DESEX, Seabees deployed to detachment locations which included Niland, Palm Springs and China Lake, Calif.

"The environment we were attempting to re-create was in isolated project sites with several crews and a few key leaders," said ENS John Casilio, assistant operations officer, NMCB 3.

In the desert environment, the temperatures varied from nearly 100 degrees during the day to freezing conditions at night. The purpose of the training was to provide Seabees the opportunity to work in a simu-

lated contingency environment in preparation for NMCB 3's deployment to Southwest Asia to conduct construction and humanitarian missions in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"The conditions in these locations are very similar to where we are going – dry heat, windy and dusty conditions," said Casilio. "But most importantly our Seabees were able to receive specific training in the quality control phase of construction and were able to develop their leadership skills."

"Our Seabees were also able to complete four SWA huts in nine days," said Construction Electrician Chief Antonio Murray, officer in charge for Detail Niland. "Our troops met the challenge and accomplished the mission while improving their construction skills and the quality of life for military personnel at the different training sites."

**Seabees from NMCB 3 work on a K-span building in February as part of DESEX in preparation for deployment to contingency environments. The battalion deployed members to three locations in California to hone their construction skills.**

*U.S. Navy photo*



NMCB 11

## NMCB 11 Molds Future Seabees at RTC Great Lakes

*By BU1 (SCW) Jonathan Britten and MC2 Erick Holmes, NMCB 11 Public Affairs*

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, a battalion known for its rich history, began another new tradition by adopting Division 101 of the Recruit Training Center (RTC) in Great Lakes, Ill., and providing support throughout their boot camp experience.

At the division's commissioning ceremony held Jan. 28, Senior Chief Equipment Operator (SCW) Alesia Stokes and Equipment Operator 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Robert Shaughnessy traveled to RTC to welcome recruits into the Navy family. Stokes handed out brown NMCB 11 T-shirts, while Shaughnessy told of NMCB 11's rich history and, to motivate the recruits, they both participated in the first physical training (PT) session of the division.

Some creative coordination went into the selection of recruits and the Recruit Division Commanders (RDCs), or "Red Ropes," for Division 101, as well as the facility they would call home throughout boot camp.

The RDCs who were assigned to 'push' the division were all Occupational Field Thirteen (OF-13) ratings, otherwise known as Seabees.

The division was housed in the USS *Marvin Shields* 'ship' or barracks, located in the new Camp John Paul Jones portion of RTC. Construction Mechanic 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Marvin Shields, who served with NMCB 11, was a Vietnam-era 'Bee and the only Seabee to date decorated with the Medal of Honor, earned posthumously for his heroic actions.

"The process of Sailorization at RTC turns civilian recruits into Shipmates. What assists someone with making such a significant transition? Identifying with the personnel who are already a part of that

organization," said NMCB 11 Commanding Officer CDR Stephen Revelas. "So it is logical for us to try and make as many ties as possible with the division members."

"NMCB 11 is the first battalion in many years to sponsor a division," Stokes said, a former RDC herself. "Once [the recruits] realized not every division gets sponsored [by a command], they were really excited."

"They were so curious about everything," said Shaughnessy. "They had questions about not only the Seabees, but the Navy as a whole. As for the Seabees, they learned that we are more than construction workers; they learned about our aid to

war, repairing, building and rebuilding both military and local national [structures]."

NMCB 11 was also there to see the recruits complete their training on March 7. The second group of visitors to RTC included Revelas and Command Master Chief (SCW) Thane Halsey. A special ceremony was held where Revelas honored each recruit with a NMCB 11 coin. Revelas and Halsey then offered words of wisdom to carry the recruits through their experiences in the Navy.

With all of their boot camp challenges completed, Division 101 recruits graduated with the honor as a Hall of Fame Division, which means they received near-perfect scores on every graded evolution of their training, including PT, rifle drill, academics, uniform inspections and Battle Stations.

Division 101 originally had six recruits slated to attend one of the seven Seabee 'A' Schools after graduation. Through NMCB 11 sponsoring visits and education, nine more recruits took the opportunity to re-classify their ratings and become future 'Bees.



**CDR Stephen Revelas, NMCB 11 commanding officer, speaks to the recruits of Division 101 who were sponsored by the battalion throughout their boot camp experience at Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., in March.**

*U.S. Navy photo*



#### UCT 1

**EA1 (SCW/DV) Christopher Munch, UCT 1 Air Det. Bravo, leads his fire team during military operations on urban terrain training as part of a tactical exercise administered by USMC Camp Lejeune's Special Operations Training Group in February.**

Photo by EO1 (SCW/DV) Jarrell Patton



## UCT 1 Air Det. Bravo Completes Tactical Exercise

*By EO1 (SCW/DV) Jarrell Patton and EA1 (SCW/DV) Christopher Munch, UCT 1*

As UCT 1 Air Det. Bravo heads toward deployment season, the 'Bees completed a two-week tactical exercise at USMC Camp Lejeune, N.C., in February, administered by the base's Special Operations Training Group.

The tactical exercise focused on small arms marksmanship, close quarters combat (CQB), detainee handling, convoy operations, and improvised explosive device (IED) training.

Small arms familiarization allowed these UCT 1 members to prepare for CQB training, a small portion of military operations on urban terrain. This block of training helped the Air Det. communicate and work together as a team. Air Det members also participated in SIMUNITION (training ammunition) and learned detainee handling procedures.

Air Det. Officer in Charge Chief Equipment Operator (SCW/DV) Steven Eckroth led the team on several simulated convoys, working on tactics, standard operating procedures and IED recognition training.

In exchange for the tactical training, Air Det. Bravo provided Camp Lejeune with light construction around the barracks and galley at Stone Bay.

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## NMCB 4 Chiefs and Officers Conduct Field Training Exercise

*By MCC (SCW/SW/AW) Steve Bansbach, Public Affairs Officer, NMCB 4*

#### NMCB 4

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 participated in its annual chief and officer Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., March 24-28.

More than 50 Seabees grabbed their gear and trained in the field, experiencing what junior troops are required to do during the battalion's two-week FTX in April. One of the main building blocks of the training event was teamwork.

"This training helped teach junior officers about the difficulties of being a squad or fire team leader," Chief Construction Electrician (SCW) Alex Bradshaw said. "This exercise also serves as a refresher for the chiefs and senior officers."

During this training, chiefs and officers practiced day and night land navigation, tactical operation center procedures, patrols, and also set up defensive perimeters. These tasks enabled them to experience training from a troop's perspective.

"I think the most important [parts of] this training were the general leadership instruction and how to communicate more efficiently," LTJG Paul Weyant said. "By learning this it will better help me lead, enabling NMCB 4 to be more capable of completing construction tasks."

CBMU 202

## CBMU 202 Seabees Build Combat Care Course to Improve Battlefield Medical Skills

*By Marsha Childs, Marketing, Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla.*

Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla. Commanding Officer CAPT Raquel Bono and Naval Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202 Det. Jacksonville personnel participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) confidence course, March 28. The course is dedicated in memory of Hospital Corpsman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Julian “Snoop Doc” Woods, a Jacksonville native who was killed while administering aid to a fallen Marine under enemy fire during Operation Phantom Fury in Fallujah, Iraq, in November 2004.

Construction began Dec. 16, 2007 on board Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville. CBMU 202 Officer-in-Charge ENS Leonard Neal and his crew were excited to assist the hospital with this worthwhile project.

“This is the first obstacle course of its kind to be built by the Navy,” Neal said. “The Army and Air Force are already using them. It gives the hospital an opportunity not only to train its corpsmen, but also to reach out to the region and offer the training to more corpsmen to get them ready for war.”

In her opening remarks, Bono said, “The whole goal of the course was to be able to instill that extra level of confidence to make you (the corpsmen) as proficient as possible to do your job. The real reason we are here is to remember “Snoop Doc.” What we are trying to do here is share the legacy of this very brave corpsman.”

Twenty hospital corpsmen finished their week-long training of classroom coursework and firearms instruction with the successful completion of the TCCC obstacle course built by CBMU 202 Seabees. The challenging course simulating a wartime environment is designed to prepare first responders for hostile conditions on the battlefield.

Each “Devil Doc,” a term of camaraderie used by Marines on the battlefield for Navy corpsmen, touched the memorial plaque displayed at the beginning of the course in tribute to Petty Officer Woods.

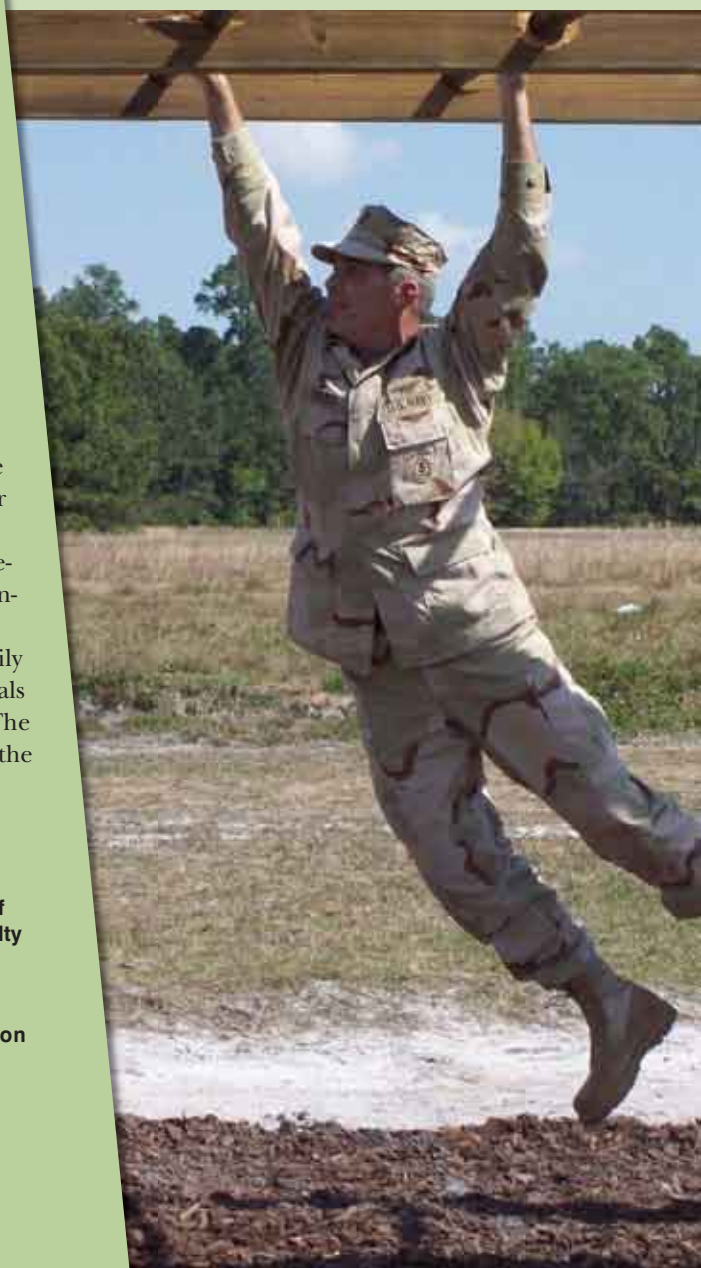
The obstacle course was the brainchild of LCDR Joseph Marcantel, a family nurse practitioner, who identified hospital funding to purchase the materials totaling \$35,000 and designed the obstacles based on the TCCC curriculum. The Seabees provided the labor to build the course, a cost avoidance of \$82,000 to the government. Construction went smoothly and met its target completion date.

**(Right, top) BUC (SCW) Charles Carter, ENS Leonard Neal, Carolyn Woods (wife of HM3 Woods) and CAPT Raquel Bono cut the ribbon on the Tactical Combat Casualty Care confidence course at NAS Jacksonville in March.**

*Photo by HN Jermaine Derrick*

**(Right) NavHosp CMDCM (AW) Dennis Green tests his hand-eye coordination on the course.**

*Photo by Marsha Childs, Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla.*







UCT 1 divers enter the water from the stage of the USNS *Grapple*, as (on board, from top right) CUCM (SCW/DV) Jeffrey Moxley, EO1 (SCW/DV) Jarrell Patton and SW3 (DV) Chris Michael provide supervision.

Photo by EA1 (SCW) Travis Musgrove

UCT 1

## UCT 1 Divers Train Aboard USNS *Grapple*

By EO1 (SCW/DV) Nicholas Gegg, UCT 1

Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1's Air Det. Alpha conducted a divers' training exercise aboard the USNS *Grapple* on the coast of Florida that included recompression chamber, SCUBA and surface supplied diving. Air Det Alpha also used the side scan hydrographic survey equipment to locate and mark objects on the ocean floor.

Additionally, a team of inspectors from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command conducted Diving Operations Readiness Assessment. A series of dive scenarios was provided to evaluate the team's capabilities to safely execute emergency procedures in and out of the water. These scenarios also provided diving 'supervisors in training' an opportunity to complete specific qualifications needed for the eventual certification as an 'unlimited' diving supervisor, a milestone in a Navy diver's career.

NMCB 17

## Seabees Demonstrate for Navy Training Video

EA2 Rafael Eequer, NMCB 17, demonstrates proper personal decontamination procedures, while a member of the Naval Education and Training film crew shoots video for a chemical, biological and radioactive training film in Port Hueneme, Calif., in January.

Photo by MC2 Kenneth W. Robinson



## SEABEES CHEER ON KESELOWSKI AT DAYTONA SEASON OPENER

Eight Seabees from the 25<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Regiment had front row seats to watch Brad Keselowski drive the No. 88 Navy *Accelerate Your Life* Monte Carlo SS to a 16<sup>th</sup> place finish in the Camping World 300 at Daytona International Speedway, Feb 16. As part of the Fleet Honoree Program (FHP), the Seabees received a guided behind-the-scenes NASCAR garage and pit tour, had a private autograph session with Keselowski, watched the race from the No. 88 pit box and had the opportunity to meet Dale Earnhardt Jr. The FHP, sponsored by Navy Motorsports, highlights the accomplishments of top-performing commands, as well as individual Sailors in the Fleet. Those selected have the opportunity to experience a NASCAR Nationwide Series race from the team's vantage point.



Photo by LTJG Andrea Ross, Navy Motorsports Public Affairs

## First Version of Seabee Electronic Toolbox is Available



The Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE) has released the first version of Seabee Electronic Toolbox (SET), a tool that integrates diverse references such as videos, images, text and sounds into a single cohesive library. Users will find career-enhancing, job-related and professional references at their finger tips, including Non-Resident Training Courses, Lesson Guides for Technical and Military Skills and many others.

SET was created to provide a ready reference for a majority of users with a common operating system; it will undoubtedly become a personal reference tool used on a daily basis.

SET is a state-of-the-art DVD electronic reference. With its intuitive workflow and 'point and click' objects, beginners can quickly adapt to navigating the references.

It empowers Seabees to learn and know their professional and military skills and is intended for distribution in the thousands. Its primary audience is NCF OF-13, E6 and below.

Look for SET to be shipped to your command.

**To contact the SET development team in CSFE's N3 Directorate, e-mail [SET@navy.mil](mailto:SET@navy.mil).**

## SEABEES WIN 2007 CHINFO MERIT AWARDS

*By NAVFAC HQ Public Affairs*

**T**he Chief of Naval Information (CHINFO) has announced the 2007 Merit Awards for exemplary achievements in internal media print/broadcast products by Navy commands and individuals. The following Seabees and battalions received awards in these categories:

**MAGAZINE FORMAT PUBLICATION**  
**Honorable Mention:**  
*The Bee Buzz*, NMCB 3

**FAMILYGRAM (LARGE COMMAND)**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place:**  
NMCB 4

**PHOTOJOURNALISM**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:**  
MC2 Chadwick Runge, NMCB 1  
**Honorable Mention:**  
MC2 Demetrius Kennon, NMCB 1

*Congratulations!*



## STATE DEPARTMENT GRADUATES SEABEES

The Naval Support Unit (NSU) State Department's Seabee Class 08-02 graduated 14 'Bees, March 14. Seabees work at embassies throughout the world providing knowledge and resources to install and maintain security systems at Department of State facilities.



Graduates included (first row, from left) SW2 (SCW) Dustin W. Coffey, NSU AOIC UCCM (SCW) Glen E. Mummert, Honored Guest MCPON (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr., CE2 (SCW) Paul A. Torres, SW2 (SCW) David Olayo and UT1 (SCW) Jamie L. Holcomb; (second row, from left) SWC (SCW/DV) Timothy A. Jones (training chief), CE1 (SCW) Pedro E. Duartechacon, CE2 (SCW) Reiven C. Atienza, CE2 (SCW) Michael J. Beaver, BU1 (SCW) Subrina J. Stallings, UT1 (SCW) Jacky R. Hendrix, CE2 (SCW) Antwan L. Carter and UT1 (SCW) Jerimiah A. Stewart; (third row) and UT1 (SCW) Michael D. Tricklel.

Photo by MC1 (EXW) Jennifer Villalovos, MCPON Public Affairs

## SEABEES CELEBRATE AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 celebrated African American heritage during a ceremony at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif., Feb. 27.

Seabees, civilians and guests filled the base chapel as guest speaker CDR Steve Hamer, commanding officer, NMCB 4, spoke about the progression of African Americans in the Navy.

"This is an opportunity for self-reflection whether it is Black History Month or any other celebration," said Hamer who also spoke about the history of African Americans in the military and the important role they have played since the civil war.

"African Americans have been part of every

major conflict," he added. "And even though in the beginning African Americans were only restricted to certain ratings, this did not prevent them from overcoming many barriers and paving the road to where African Americans are today."

NMCB 3 Commanding Officer CDR Tony Edmonds concluded the ceremony by recognizing the importance of diversity in the military and gave thanks to the Seabees of NMCB 3 for taking the initiative to make this event happen.

"Your presence here is what matters," Edmonds said. "It shows our shared conviction that diversity is a source of strength for NMCB 3, the U.S. Navy and indeed the United States of America."

By MC1 Carmichael Yopez, NMCB 3 Public Affairs



Master of Ceremonies CE1 (SCW) Robert Trisby (right) listens to SK3 Vincent Odiamobi, a native of Nigeria, as he speaks during the African American heritage ceremony sponsored by NMCB 3 at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif., Feb 27. Odiamobi spoke about his life in Nigeria and his journey to the United States.

Photo by MC1 Carmichael Yopez

## SEABEE REUNIONS

### AUGUST

#### NMCB 71/71<sup>st</sup> NCB

**AUG. 5-10** Arlington, VA  
EO2 Jerry Montecupo,  
412-373-3096  
2548 Pitcairn Rd.  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
JMontecupo@comcast.net

#### 143<sup>rd</sup> NCB (ABCD) WWII

**AUG. 11-15, 2008** Colfax, WA  
Allen McSweeney, 509-397-4180  
203 S. Mill St., Colfax, WA 99111  
amcsweeney@stjohncable.com

#### 29<sup>th</sup> NCB

**AUG. 28-31** Florence, KY  
Arthur Grotto, 708-974-3691  
11308 Moraine Dr., Unit E  
Palos Hills, IL 60465  
agrotto@sbcglobal.net

#### 56<sup>th</sup> NCB

**AUG. 28-31** Gulfport, MS  
Bill Rosevally, 985-867-8198  
504-231-7474 (cell)  
4 Karen Dr.  
Covington, LA 70433  
billrosevally@aol.com

### SEPTEMBER

#### NMCB 7

**SEPT. 4-7** Clackamas, OR  
Jim Crews, 541-895-2983  
82714 Bear Creek Rd.  
Creswell, OR 97426  
jcrews@centurytel.net

#### 62<sup>nd</sup> NCB (WWII)

**SEPT. 5-7** Bloomington, MN  
V. P. "Joe" Johansen  
303-949-3944  
316 Luicks Ln., N., Apt S4  
Belmond, IA 50421  
wandajohansen@msn.com

#### NMCB 9 Seabee Association

**SEPT. 8-11** Las Vegas, NV  
Bobby Fletcher, 702-897-6613  
1758 Golden Vista Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89123  
ichibanseabee@aol.com

#### West Quarry Seabees at Cubi Point

**SEPT. 8-12** Spearfish, SD  
Dick Moore, 307-754-3200  
584 Lane 13  
Powell, WY 82435  
dicklydia@directairnet.com

#### 116<sup>th</sup> NCB (WWII)

**SEPT. 11-13** Colorado Springs, CO  
Jack and Frances Drake  
970-242-8409  
2745 B Rd.  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

#### NMCB 3 (All Eras)

**SEPT. 11-14** San Diego, CA  
Dave Schofield, 508-255-1583  
P.O. Box 948  
East Orleans, MA 02643  
daves@verizon.net

#### NMCB 3 Mini Reunion (All Eras)

**SEPT. 17-20** Bellingham, WA  
Jeff Teeters  
510 Michigan St.  
Mount Dora, FL 32757  
archives@nmc3.org

#### NSVA National Convention and Reunion

**SEPT. 17-20** Bellingham, WA  
Jerry Landcastle, 360-384-3494  
P.O. Box 339  
Ferndale, WA 98248  
gl5711@comcast.net  
www.nsva2008convention.com

#### NMCB 4 (All Eras)

**SEPT. 22-25** Kansas City, MO  
Dean Jaeger, 402-466-1378  
2315 N. 76<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lincoln, NE 68507  
kjaeg@aol.com

#### NMCB 8 Main Reunion

**SEPT. 24-28** Pigeon Forge, TN  
Ron Sabbatis, 831-476-5944  
606 Capitola Ave  
Capitola, CA 95010  
sabagus@charter.net

#### NMCB 11 Association

**SEPT. 25-28** St. Louis, MO  
Larry Hagler, 512-267-8873  
P. O. Box 4647  
Lago Vista, TX 78645  
Mcb11.reunion@earthlink.net

#### 119<sup>th</sup> NCB

**SEPT. 26** Pittsburgh, PA  
Adam Belajac, 412-373-6283  
2368 Tilbrook Rd.  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
abelajac119cb@webtv.net

#### NMCBs 12, 13, 19, 27/CBMU

**202/CBU 408/7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> NCRs**  
**SEPT. 26-28** Westport, MA  
Bill Napert, 508-672-2737  
65 Bigelow St.  
Fall River, MA 02720  
Bnapert@aol.com

#### 72<sup>nd</sup> NCB (WWII)

**SEPT. 28** Charleston, SC  
Bob Adams, 859-384-8905  
8905 Richmond Rd.  
Union, KY 41091

#### All Seabee Reunion

**SEPT. 30-OCT. 3** Gulfport/Biloxi, MS  
Glen Kellerman, 228-222-0487  
11257 Vidalia Rd.  
Pass Christian, MS 39571  
eqpackrat@aol.com

### OCTOBER

#### CBMU 539

**OCT. 7-11** St. Charles, MO  
Joyce Snell, 951-505-1275  
40289 Via Calidad  
Murrieta, CA 92562-3580  
jwhealon@aol.com

#### 90<sup>th</sup> NCB (WWII)

**OCT. 9-12** Rochester, NY  
Ms. Donna Alexander,  
585-334-8920  
152 Farnsworth Rd., N.  
Rochester, NY 14623

#### NMCB 74 (Vietnam Era)

**OCT. 16-19** Biloxi/Gulfport, MS  
Bill Christiansen, 920-856-6842  
P.O.Box 303  
Maplewood, WI 54226  
pinhole@centurytel.net

#### CBMU 302 (All Eras), 302<sup>nd</sup> NCB WWII

**OCT. 17-19** Jacksonville, FL  
Dave Schill, 609-410-5969  
132 Harding Ave  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
DWSchill@comcast.net

#### Seabee Teams 0301-0306

**OCT. 19-22** Nashville, TN  
George Fowler, 972-874-7308  
2916 Tophill Ln.  
Flower Mound, TX 75022  
gefmbkf@aol.com

For a complete list of reunions, visit [www.allseabees.com](http://www.allseabees.com) or the  
Seabee Historical Foundation at [www.seabeehf.org](http://www.seabeehf.org).





**CMDCM (SCW) Jim Fairbanks delivers his departing remarks at the Force Master Chief Change of Badge Ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., April 25. Fairbanks is now the Command Master Chief of CBC Gulfport, Miss.**

Photo by MC1 (SW) Kurt Riggs

## Seabee Legacy Remains Strong

*By FORCM (SCW) Jim Fairbanks*

**A**t our Change of Badge ceremony on April 25, Force Master Chief (FORCM) Mike Holdcraft said that now is an exciting time to be a Seabee.

I couldn't agree with him more.

Around the globe, the sun never sets on our Seabees hard at work, changing lives and making a positive difference no matter where they are or what they're doing. It's what we do. Our motto is "Construimus Batuimus," We build, We fight; but it's not just about construction.

The Navy's new maritime strategy calls for a more focused approach to humanitarian operations. Seabees are answering the call. They are fighting old ways of thinking and building new relationships that affect both the people they are assisting, and our folks back at home. As they forge character through the hard work and adversity they face in the field, they bring that experience home and pass it along to our junior Seabees and Sailors throughout the fleet. They strengthen our entire Navy, one project at a time.

From the Horn of Africa to CBC Gulfport, my new home, you are carrying on the traditions laid down by our grandparents in World War II. I have no doubt that our legacy is in the finest, most capable hands – yours. Seabees today are more educated, better trained and more technologically capable than at any other point in history, and they know how to get it done.

I thank each and every one of you for making my tour as your FORCM the experience of a lifetime. Every day I spent with you, I was impressed by your abilities, character and devotion to duty. I ask that you continue exercising those values throughout your career and serve as examples for others to follow. The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Joe Campa, is fond of saying that we, the Navy, can't spare any leaders now, and he's right. We need every one of you here and in the fight, ready to answer the call when necessary.

I am now the Command Master Chief at Seabee Battalion Center Gulfport and I will be seeing you around the fleet. Stay safe, be sharp and keep making a difference in what you do everyday.

Now is an exciting time to be a Seabee.

I couldn't agree more.

*Construimus ☆ Batuimus*



**BEE □ CAM**

Seabees assigned to NMCB 17 board an Air Force C-17 aircraft bound for Kuwait in March, enroute to their final destination in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

Photo by  
MC2 Kenneth W. Robinson



**NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND**

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